



Chief of Staff ***Captain Tim Giardina***

SEVENTH Fleet Families,

As I write this we are underway in the Philippine Sea, en-route to Yokosuka following a short port visit to Subic Bay, Philippines. As most of you know, we are now embarked aboard our temporary Flagship, the USS CORONADO who joined us from San Diego. We will remain aboard CORONADO while BLUE RIDGE undergoes a 6 month maintenance availability in Yokosuka where several needed improvements will be made to major ship systems along with habitability upgrades. After exercise Ulchi-Focus-Lense in September, we will move back aboard BLUE RIDGE. As usual, the staff has performed flawlessly during the move aboard CORONADO. As you can imagine, this was a very complicated move to allow a seamless transition from one ship to the other without ever “shutting down the SEVENTH Fleet”. I’d also like to thank the CORONADO leadership for their “can do” attitude to quickly ramp up to our SEVENTH Fleet standards and expectations.

I’d like to also take this opportunity to update all the families on the Ombudsman situation. Effective 1 May, Clair Pennels will relinquish her share of the co-ombudsman duties to Tiffany Meinke as the sole SEVENTH Fleet Command Ombudsman. Similarly, due to the upcoming departure of Dave and Jenn Cobel, Lisa Morrison will be relieving Jenn as the SEVENTH Fleet Band Ombudsman on 1 May. I encourage each of you to thank Clair and Jenn in your own way and to welcome Lisa to the team. I can’t begin to express how much these ladies do for the command families and how much their efforts are appreciated.

Not long ago I completed a series of “COS Calls” with all the Sailors on the SEVENTH Fleet Staff. At one of the calls I asked a Sailor what I should do to make life better for the Sailors on the staff. He replied “It doesn’t do any good to make suggestions because nothing ever gets done to make things better.” As many of you can imagine, this isn’t the way to improve an organization. I’d like to think this Sailor was wrong. I’ve been challenging the leadership on the SEVENTH Fleet staff to find ways to improve every aspect of our staff including readiness, focused training programs, fiscal responsibility, improved opportunity to take leave and liberty, advancement productivity, special program participation, off duty education, quality of life, quality of service, the command sponsor program and many other areas. As family members, I’d also like to challenge each of you to identify areas that require improvement. Numerous vehicles exist for you to get involved in efforts to make things better for our Sailors and our families including participation in the various support organizations or simply providing recommendations to me directly through the Ombudsman, or through your Spouse.

Warmest Regards,
Tim Giardina



Seventh Fleet Master Chief ***Ashley Smith***

Dear Seventh Fleet Families and Friends,

Thanks to the team of the COMSEVENTHFLT and the USS CORONADO, the recent underway period was a success. The port call to Subic Bay, Philippines, was enjoyed by all. The Sailors of SEVENTHFLT also joined in with USS CORONADO to accomplish a very rewarding COMREL project for a school there.

During the underway period we were able to recognize our 1st Quarter of 2004, Sailor of the Quarter and Junior Sailor of the Quarter. Vice Admiral Willard presented CTR1 (SW) Jonathan L. Stone, from N2, the Sailor of the Quarter and OS3 (SW) Allarice K. Long from N3,5,7, the Junior Sailor of the Quarter. This is a tremendous accomplishment for these two Sailors. If you see them, please take a minute to congratulate them! Prior to leaving Yokosuka, the Selection Board results were announced for Master Chief and we had the honor of pinning on Master Chief Anchors on ISCM Bryan Cook. Congratulations!

As the schedule for the next couple months firms up, it should include some time in the Home Port with the families as well as a few more Good Will Port Visits. The end of the school year is coming upon us as is summer travel. There will be several SEVENTHFLT families leaving us. I would like to thank you for your contributions to our command. Fair Winds and Following Seas. Remember to stay safe and watch out for each other.

CNOCM (SW) Ashley Smith
Command Master Chief
COMSEVENTHFLT